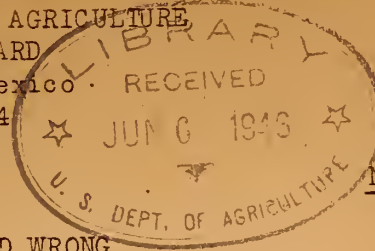


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





FARM WAR NEWS

FAMINE PROPHETS GUESSED WRONG

War Food Administrator Marvin Jones has called attention to the fact that this February is the month that some sensational 1943 prophets of hunger in America said they dreaded to contemplate for real hunger would be upon us.

Here are some of the food facts that confront those who prophesied that our farmers could not produce adequately in 1943; Pork--our point values on pork are the lowest since rationing began; Potatoes--so abundant that people are being urged to buy, use, and store more to relieve the strain on our warehouses; Frozen fruits and vegetables--on many, ration points have been lowered or even removed; Eggs--the largest supply on record; Butter--point values are high, but we do have butter; Canned vegetables--most are now in plentiful stocks on grocers' shelves; Fluid milk--in January our civilians drank about 6 percent more than in January of last year.

Including all the various kinds of foods, our civilians will eat in 1944 only slightly less than last year and the year before--which was our all-time peak--but actually will eat above our pre-war level.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

With 4,000,000 fewer people on farms than during World War I, the farmer produced 50 percent more food in the last two years than he did in 1917 and 1918?

PROCEDURE FOR REPLENISHING GAS LOSS

Along with other bulk users of gasoline, farmers may replenish losses from their storage facilities resulting from fire, theft, accident, or other extraordinary circumstances under a new OPA procedure which provides that they apply for replenishment at the local boards which originally issued the ration or the board in the area where the gasoline is stored.

MEETING THE MILK GOAL

Meeting the 121,000,000,000 pound milk goal for 1944 will require increased cow numbers, diversion of feed from other livestock to dairy cows, and maximum production of pasture and feed crops for the latter part of the year.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics makes this analysis and points out that present trends are toward total milk production of about 116 billion pounds in 1944 compared with the 118 billion in 1943.

Supplies of feed, the B. A. E. says, are not sufficient for maximum production from all livestock now on farms, while ratios of livestock prices and feed prices are uniformly favorable to feeding any kind of livestock.

FARM NEEDS SURVEY

Farm needs for supplies and repair parts are being checked this week in a detailed survey by the Office of Civilian Requirements (WPB). Census

interviewers will quiz 3,000 farmers, representing all types of food and fiber production and all agricultural regions, regarding 43 essential articles of equipment--from cream separators to barrel pumps--to determine shortages experienced, and 14 classifications of farm machinery--from corn planters to motor trucks--to determine needs for repair parts and services.

FARMER'S SHARE OF FOOD DOLLAR UP

In December, the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar advanced one cent to 59 cents--the highest since 1918, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. During 1943 the farmer's share averaged 57 cents, the highest since 1919.

Contributing to the lower margin between the farm price and the retail price of food, are Government payments to processors and distributors. If the amount of the marketing subsidies were added to retail price of the "market basket" used in making the calculations, then the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar in December would be 57 cents instead of 59 cents.

FEBRUARY SET-ASIDE ALLOCATION

The first February allocation of oilseed meal for New Mexico from the 20 percent which processors are required to set aside from their February production for directed distribution by WFA has been received by the State AAA Office.

The allocation amounts to 3618 tons and will meet approximately 30% of the State needs for February.

The February allocation for directed distribution of oilseed meal in the Nation is expected to be about the same as the 3,500 cars in the January allocation. Processors will continue to distribute the other 80% of their production in their regular manner.

To facilitate the rapid distribution of soybean meal and to reduce cross-hauls, restrictions were put into effect February 1 on shipments of soybean meal into Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California. Similar restrictions went into effect earlier for North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

FARM PRODUCTS PRICE INDEX UNCHANGED

No change was reported by the USDA in the general level of prices received by farmers and in the index of prices paid, interest and taxes, from December 15 to January 15. Upturns in crop prices were offset by downturns in prices of livestock and livestock products, largely because of a sharp decline in the price of eggs. With total consumer incomes at a record level and with military and lend-lease needs for food increasing, the demand for farm products continues strong.

The all-commodity index for January, however, at 196 percent of the 1909-14 average was 15 points higher than last January and the highest for the month since 1920.

The new index of crop prices is now above the new index of livestock product prices for the first time since 1937. In World War II the advance in crop prices had lagged behind the rise in livestock prices until the beginning of 1944, whereas crop prices advanced faster and further than livestock prices throughout World War I.

BRIEFS

With the present outlook for less feed grains and slightly more protein meal for the coming year, feeders may be able to increase the protein content of feeds to the point where greatest feed efficiency may be attained. During the past year, abundant grain supplies and limited protein meal supplies have resulted in the reduction of protein content of feeds below the point of greatest efficiency in many instances.

* * * * *

If vitamins are still a bit confusing to you, it's probably because knowledge of them is new. The USDA points out that purification, isolation, and identification of the known vitamins has taken place during the last 12 years. Essential knowledge on Vitamin A dates from 1930, on vitamin C from 1931 to 1933, on thiamine from as recently as 1935, and on others even more recently.

* * * * *

Disappearance of all feed grains from October 1, 1943, to January 1, 1944, was about 8 percent greater than the comparable period a year earlier.

* * * * *

Wheat stored in interior mills, elevators and warehouses on January 1, 1944, was estimated at 145,986,000 bushels, 39% lower than the record holdings on that date in 1943, 34% below 1942, and 13% below 1941, but higher than any other year of record, and 15% larger than the 1935-42 average.

* * * * *

WFA's intensive campaign to promote the growing of even more Victory Gardens in 1944 than last year will place stress on "community gardens" where gardeners cultivate plots alongside their neighbors and the competitive spirit that results tends to promote better yields.

* * * * *

Although optimism regarding civilian supplies might be suggested by the fact that cattle receipts at the 12 principal markets for the four-week period ending January 29 were up 20 percent over a year ago and calves 32 percent, the Armed Services are now taking about 30 percent of the total beef production under Federal inspection.

* * * * *

About 200 boxcars a day are now moving wheat from the western provinces of Canada into this country. It is moving at present into the Southeast and Mountain States and is feed wheat, not milling wheat.

* * * * *

The WFA is dealing with allocation figures that put the national war debt to shame. The agency recently allotted 88,000,000,000,000 (88 trillion) USP units of vitamin A to the country's civilians for use in 1944. The total supply available for all purposes, including military and lend-lease, is approximately 139 trillion USP units.

* * * * *

Horse collars have joined the list of hard-to-get items. WPB recently issued special instructions to manufacturers in an effort to prevent a serious shortage.

* * * * *

CWI is urging more extensive use of V-mail. Despite a vigorous educational campaign, many folks are still mailing letters to servicemen via conventional methods. One standard transportation plane can carry 400,000 V-mail letters. The same number of regular letters would require a fleet of 112 planes.

FARM WAR NEWS

NO. 77

OILSEED MEAL SET-ASIDE CONTINUED

Processors of oilseed meal will set aside 20 percent of their March production as they did in January and February for directed distribution by the War Food Administration. They will continue to move 80 percent through their regular trade channels.

During February, the War Food Administration allocated about 140,000 tons of oilseed meal to feeders, dealers, and feed mixers who were unable to obtain sufficient quantities of oilseed meals through regular trade channels. The February allocation was made up of about 80,000 tons from the set-aside order and the balance from meal produced from midwest soybeans by southern processors under contract with the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Distribution of the meal available to WFA is made through the cooperation of State and county AAA committees with State and county feed advisory committees.

FSA BANS INFLATED PURCHASES

Tenant purchase loans by the Farm Security Administration will not be made in those areas where farm land values soar beyond the range of sound long-term investments, Administrator Frank Hancock has announced.

Due to inflated prices for farms, loans under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act have already been withdrawn in some sections. FSA county committees have been instructed to turn back their money rather than make loans for purchase of farms at inflated prices. This action was taken so that the program which enables tenants, sharecroppers, and farm laborers to become owners would protect applicants from acquiring land debts which would ruin them later on.

NEW EATING RECORDS

Civilians consumed record quantities of chickens, eggs, fluid milk, margarine, potatoes, and dry peas during 1943, the latest summary of the national food situation reveals.

Although a record number of U. S. citizens couldn't buy steak as often as they had the urge and the money, civilian consumption of meat at 131 pounds per capita was 5 pounds more than the average for 1935-39, but 6 pounds less than in 1942. Consumption of fish, butter, cheeses, deciduous fruits, and fresh and canned vegetables was substantially below 1942.

Civilians ate very well in 1943, consuming 5 to 7 percent more food than in prewar 1935-39 and only about 2 percent less than in 1942, preliminary estimates indicate.

SOME 1944 FOOD INDICATIONS

Civilian shares of certain foods in 1944 on the basis of tentative allocations by the War Food Administration indicate that eating habits aren't due for any major changes.

Present indications on some civilian food sharing are: Edible fats and oils products---44 pounds per person; Butter -- slightly more than a pound a month as civilians share 94% of our production with U. S. servicemen on a 76-to-18 basis:

Cheese -- about a pound less per capita than 1943, with our servicemen getting a 5,000,000 pound increase; Eggs -- 349 per capita from 75% of our production compared with 345 last year and about 300 for the 1935-39 average; Meat -- about the same as in 1943; Milk -- 3 percent less than 1943 is indicated for total civilian milk supply, about 754 pounds per capita.

PRISONERS OF WAR FOR FARM LABOR

Representatives of the War Manpower Commission and the War Department have been checking on the practicability of more extensive use of prisoners of war in farming and industry when free labor is not available. War prisoners have been used satisfactorily in agriculture, food processing, logging, and lumbering.

Under an agreement between WMC and the War Department, which retains the right to determine the possibility of each project, WMC certifies to the prison camp commanders the need for such labor. The agreement sets forth the conditions under which the prisoners may be used. The employer is required to pay the wages prevailing in the community, but the prisoner receives for himself credit of 80 cents per day for personal expenditures, the remainder going to the Government for camp maintenance.

Applications for use of prisoners of war labor may be filed at the nearest United States Employment Service Office. The number of war prisoners in the United States as of January 1 was 172,879, of which number 7,598 were officers and not available for labor unless they ask for it.

BROOMCORN PRICE CEILINGS

Maximum prices for broomcorn have been set by OPA at the same level as those for the 1943 crop -- \$300 per ton for "shed-cured" and \$250 per ton for all other. The prices are f.o.b. farm, warehouse, or other points where the broomcorn is loaded for shipment from producer to purchaser.

Early announcement of the ceilings was made to encourage producers to meet the 1944 goal of 414,000 acres, a sharp increase over the 249,000 acres produced last year. Broomcorn requirements have increased during the war because of military and increased industrial use as well as increased household use. Production had declined largely as a result of the development of fiber brushes and mechanical cleaning devices.

EFFICIENT POULTRY FEEDING

Unless you plan to hatch your own baby chicks, you should get rid of the roosters in the poultry flock, the USDA advises, because roosters eat feed that could better go to pullets and laying hens. The full-fed hen is the most efficient so it's better to feed 20 hens well than divide the same feed among 30 birds.

IT DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN

Our huge increase in food production since 1939 is the result, not of uniform but of selective crop expansion developed farm by farm through careful thought and advance planning, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard points out.

EGG DEMAND STRONGER

Prospective demand for eggs for both civilian and war purposes in 1944 is stronger than the demand during 1943, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports and points out that farmers probably can sell increased quantities of eggs at about the same average prices as 1943. The spring egg-feed price ratio, due to higher feed prices, will be lower than the record ratio of last spring but above average.

HOME CANNING GETS BOOST

To meet WFA estimates of requirements for the first two quarters of the year, the War Production Board has authorized production of 400,000 pressure canners before July 1. WFA took pressure canners off the ration list in December.

The authorization was granted to six manufacturers, and provision was made for transfer of quotas between the manufacturers in the event some of them are unable to meet the July deadline without interference with munitions manufacture. The canners will be made in two sizes -- up to 300,000 that hold seven one-quart glass jars, and up to 100,000 that hold fourteen. Last year, the 339,000 pressure canners delivered were war models of carbon steel, but this year use of aluminum will be permitted as far as it is available.

MANPOWER FOR CANNING

To assure that all available food from the 1944 goals for canned fruits and vegetables will be processed, the War Manpower Commission is cooperating with the canning industry to complete plans for recruiting workers. Last year's experience and higher 1944 goals indicate that it will be necessary to recruit a half million full and part-time workers at the height of the food processing season.

ODT REQUESTS SHIPPING CHANGE

Shippers of beer, wine, and canned goods have been requested to reduce their use of refrigerator cars 50 percent during the next two months in order to give right of way to seed potatoes and early spring foods. Unless a cut is made, ODT warns, shippers will face imposition of an Interstate Commerce Commission service order.

AAA CHIEF'S POST-WAR TIP

"Cooperative action prepared agriculture for its spectacular contribution to the war effort," N. E. Dodd, Oregon farmer and Chief of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, points out, and adds that "the same kind of cooperation and planning can successfully carry agriculture from war to peace."

Directing attention to the fact that the national farm program "stabilized and balanced" agriculture, Dodd warned that individual action will not be sufficient to carry agriculture through the transition from war to peace. "Many of us," he said, "remember the last war^{and} the economic debacle that followed. All of us are anxious to avoid repetition of that disaster."

STEEL TO RUBBER CONVERSION SUSPENDED

Suspension of conversions of tractors and implements from steel wheels to rubber tires has been announced by the Office of the Director of Rubber in order to assure adequate stocks of replacement tires for the coming season and to hold to a minimum the delivery of 1944 tractors on steel wheels.

A complete survey of stocks is being made to assure enough tires for replacement needs -- estimated at 170,000. Resumption of the conversion program can be speeded through greater emphasis on repair and retreading to reduce replacement requirements. An appeal procedure is provided under the suspension to take care of hardship cases.

RECORD CITRUS SUPPLIES

The Nation's supply of citrus fruits is at record levels, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates. Crop estimates for 1943-44 are: Oranges -- 93,744,000 boxes compared with 85,116,000 in 1942-43; Tangerines -- 3,500,000 compared with 4,200,000; Lemons -- 15,006,000 compared with 14,940,000; Grapefruit -- 49,533,000 compared with 50,481,000 in the four principal producing States of Florida, Texas, California, and Arizona. The grapefruit decrease is attributed chiefly to the fact that seeded grapefruit in Florida normally yield greater in alternate years and this is a year of low production.

RESTRICTIONS STILL OFF

Farmers can slaughter hogs without a permit or license and deliver any quantity of pork to persons not living on the farm until March 17 as a result of a month's extension by WFA of the period in which home-slaughter restrictions on hogs are suspended. Farmers are required to collect ration stamps for pork so delivered but they may collect ration points prior to validation dates.

PRODUCING FOR WAR

Every soldier requires 250 pounds of cotton or 10 times what the average civilian uses.

Although almost double a normal carryover of American Upland cotton is indicated for next August 1, these excess supplies are in shorter staples or lower grades, while working supplies of the particular grades or staples needed are small. Cotton growers are being urged to keep these needs in mind when they plant and to provide more of the kinds of cotton needed through more careful harvesting and ginning.

War Food Administrator Marvin Jones has pointed out that the heavy wartime domestic consumption of cotton will not continue after the war and the problem of foreign markets will come again.